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South America :: Venezuela (../geos/print_ve.html)

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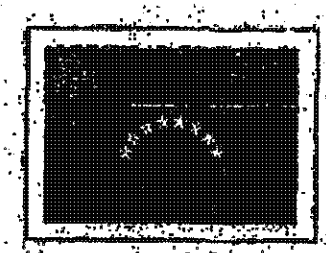

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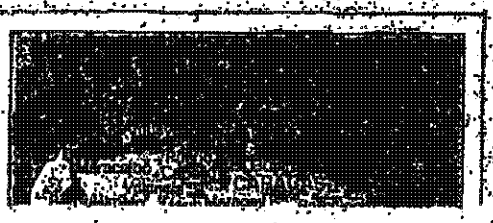
(../attachments/maps/VE-map.gif)



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Introduction :: Venezuela

Background (../docs/notesanddefs.html#325): This entry usually highlights major historic events and current issues and may include a statement about one or two key future trends.

(../fields/325.html#VE)

Venezuela was one of three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others being Ecuador and New Granada, which became Colombia). For most of the first half of the 20th century, Venezuela was ruled by generally benevolent military strongmen who promoted the oil industry and allowed for some social reforms. Democratically elected governments have held away since 1959. Under Hugo CHAVEZ, president from 1999 to 2013, and his hand-picked successor, President Nicolas MADURO, the executive branch has exercised increasingly authoritarian control over other branches of government. In 2016, President MADURO issued a decree to hold an election to form a "Constituent Assembly." A 30 July 2017 poll approved the formation of a 545-member Constituent Assembly and elected its delegates, empowering them to change the constitution and dismiss government institutions and officials. The US Government does not recognize the Assembly, which has generally used its powers to rule by decree rather than to reform the constitution. Simultaneously, democratic institutions continue to deteriorate, freedoms of expression and the press are curtailed, and political polarization has grown. The ruling party's economic policies have expanded the state's role in the economy through expropriations of major enterprises, strict currency exchange and price controls that discourage private sector investment and production, and overdependence on the petroleum industry for revenues, among others. Current concerns include human rights abuses, rampant violent crime, high inflation, and widespread shortages of basic consumer goods, medicine, and medical supplies.

Geography :: Venezuela

Location (../docs/notesanddefs.html#276): This entry identifies the country's regional location, neighboring countries, and adjacent bodies of water.

(../fields/276.html#VE)

Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, between Colombia and Guyana

Geographic coordinates (../docs/notesanddefs.html#277): This entry includes rounded latitude and longitude figures for the centroid or center point of a country expressed in degrees and minutes; it is based on the locations provided in the Geographic Names Server (GNS), maintained by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on behalf of the US Board on Geographic Names.

(../fields/277.html#VE)

8 00 N, 66 00 W

Map references (../docs/notesanddefs.html#278): This entry includes the name of the Factbook reference map on which a country may be found. Note that boundary representations on these maps are not necessarily authoritative. The entry on Geographic coordinates may be helpful in finding some smaller countries.

(../fields/278.html#VE)

South America

Area (../docs/notesanddefs.html#279): This entry includes three subfields. Total area is the sum of all land and water areas delimited by international boundaries and/or coastlines. Land area is the aggregate of all surfaces delimited by international boundaries and/or coastlines, excluding inland water bodies (lakes, reservoirs, rivers). Water area is the sum of the surfaces of all inland water bodies, such as lakes, reservoirs, or rivers, as delimited by international boundaries and/or coastlines.

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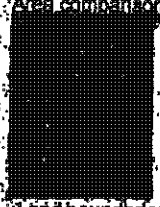
(../fields/279.html#VE)
total: 912,050 sq km
land: 882,050 sq km
water: 30,000 sq km
country comparison to the world: 34 (../fields/279rank.html#VE)
Area - comparative (../docs/notesanddefs.html#280): This entry provides an area comparison based on total area equivalents. Most entities are compared with the entire US or one of the 50 states based on area measurements (1990 revised) provided by the US Bureau of the Census. The smaller entities are compared with Washington, DC (178 sq km, 69 sq mi) or The Mall in Washington, DC (0.59 sq km, 0.23 sq mi, 146 acres).

(../fields/280.html#VE)
almost six times the size of Georgia; slightly more than twice the size of California

Area comparison map:



Land boundaries (../docs/notesanddefs.html#281): This entry contains the total length of all land boundaries and the individual lengths for each of the contiguous border countries. When available, official lengths published by national statistical agencies are used. Because surveying methods may differ, country border lengths reported by contiguous countries may differ.

(../fields/281.html#VE)
total: 5,267 km
border countries (3): Brazil 2137 km, Colombia 2341 km, Guyana 789 km

Coastline (../docs/notesanddefs.html#282): This entry gives the total length of the boundary between the land area (including islands) and the sea.

(../fields/282.html#VE)
2,800 km

Maritime claims (../docs/notesanddefs.html#283): This entry includes the following claims, the definitions of which are excerpted from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which alone contains the full and definitive descriptions: territorial sea - the sovereignty of a coastal state extends beyond its land territory and internal waters to an adjacent belt of sea, described as the territorial sea in the UNCLOS (Part II); this sovereignty extends to the air space over the territorial sea as well as its underlying s . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#283)

(../fields/283.html#VE)
territorial sea: 12 nm
exclusive economic zone: 200 nm
contiguous zone: 15 nm
continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

Climate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#284): This entry includes a brief description of typical weather regimes throughout the year; in the Word entry only, it includes four subfields that describe climate extremes:ten driest places on earth (average annual precipitation) describes the annual average precipitation measured in both millimeters and inches for selected countries with climate extremes. ten wettest places on earth (average annual precipitation) describes the annual average precipitation measured in both millimeters and i . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#284)

(../fields/284.html#VE)
tropical; hot, humid; more moderate in highlands

Terrain (../docs/notesanddefs.html#285): This entry contains a brief description of the topography.

(../fields/285.html#VE)
Andes Mountains and Maracaibo Lowlands in northwest; central plains (llanos); Guiana Highlands in southeast

Elevation (../docs/notesanddefs.html#407): This entry includes the mean elevation and elevation extremes, lowest point and highest point.

(../fields/407.html#VE)
mean elevation: 450 m
lowest point: Caribbean Sea 0 m
highest point: Pico Bolivar 4,978 m

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Natural resources (../docs/notesanddefs.html#287): This entry lists a country's mineral, petroleum, hydropower, and other resources of commercial importance, such as rare earth elements (REEs). In general, products appear only if they make a significant contribution to the economy, or are likely to do so in the future.

(../fields/287.html#VE)

petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, other minerals, hydropower, diamonds

Land use (../docs/notesanddefs.html#288): This entry contains the percentage shares of total land area for three different types of land use: agricultural land, forest, and other; agricultural land is further divided into arable land - land cultivated for crops like wheat, maize, and rice that are replanted after each harvest, permanent crops - land cultivated for crops like citrus, coffee, and rubber that are not replanted after each harvest, and includes land under flowering shrubs, fruit trees, nut trees, and vines, and permane . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#288)

(../fields/288.html#VE)

agricultural land: 24.5% (2011 est.)

arable land: 3.1% (2011 est.) / permanent crops: 0.8% (2011 est.) / permanent pasture: 20.6% (2011 est.)

forest: 52.1% (2011 est.)

other: 23.4% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land (../docs/notesanddefs.html#289): This entry gives the number of square kilometers of land area that is artificially supplied with water.

(../fields/289.html#VE)

10,550 sq km (2012)

Population distribution (../docs/notesanddefs.html#348): This entry provides a summary description of the population dispersion within a country. While it may suggest population density, it does not provide density figures.

(../fields/348.html#VE)

most of the population is concentrated in the northern and western highlands along an eastern spur at the northern end of the Andes, an area that includes the capital of Caracas

Natural hazards (../docs/notesanddefs.html#292): This entry lists potential natural disasters. For countries where volcanic activity is common, a volcanism subfield highlights historically active volcanoes.

(../fields/292.html#VE)

subject to floods, rockslides, mudslides; periodic droughts

Environment - current issues (../docs/notesanddefs.html#293): This entry lists the most pressing and important environmental problems. The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout the entry: Acidification - the lowering of soil and water pH due to acid precipitation and deposition usually through precipitation; this process disrupts ecosystem nutrient flows and may kill freshwater fish and plants dependent on more neutral or alkaline conditions (see acid rain). Acid rain - characterized as containing harmful levels of sulfur dioxi . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#293)

(../fields/293.html#VE)

sewage pollution of Lago de Valencia; oil and urban pollution of Lago de Maracaibo; deforestation; soil degradation; urban and industrial pollution, especially along the Caribbean coast; threat to the rainforest ecosystem from irresponsible mining operations

Environment - international agreements (../docs/notesanddefs.html#294): This entry separates country participation in international environmental agreements into two levels - party to and signed, but not ratified. Agreements are listed in alphabetical order by the abbreviated form of the full name.

(../fields/294.html#VE)

party to: Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - note (../docs/notesanddefs.html#295): This entry includes miscellaneous geographic information of significance not included elsewhere.

(../fields/295.html#VE)

note 1: the country lies on major sea and air routes linking North and South America

note 2: Venezuela has some of the most unique geology in the world; tepuis are massive table-top mountains of the western Guiana Highlands that tend to be isolated and thus support unique endemic plant and animal species; their sheer cliffsides account for some of the most spectacular waterfalls in the world including Angel Falls, the world's highest (979 m) that drops off Auyan Tepui

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People and Society :: Venezuela

Population (../docs/notesanddefs.html#335): This entry gives an estimate from the US Bureau of the Census based on statistics from population censuses, vital statistics registration systems, or sample surveys pertaining to the recent past and on assumptions about future trends. The total population presents one overall measure of the potential impact of the country on the world and within its region. Note: Starting with the 1993 Factbook, demographic estimates for some countries (mostly African) have explicitly taken into account t . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#335)

(../fields/335.html#VE)

31,889,176 (July 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 43 (../fields/335rank.html#VE)

Nationality (../docs/notesanddefs.html#336): This entry provides the identifying terms for citizens - noun and adjective.

(../fields/336.html#VE)

noun: Venezuelan(s)

adjective: Venezuelan

Ethnic groups (../docs/notesanddefs.html#400): This entry provides an ordered listing of ethnic groups starting with the largest and normally includes the percent of total population.

(../fields/400.html#VE)

unspecified Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Arab, German, African, indigenous people

Languages (../docs/notesanddefs.html#402): This entry provides a listing of languages spoken in each country and specifies any that are official national or regional languages. When data is available, the languages spoken in each country are broken down according to the percent of the total population speaking each language as a first language. For those countries without available data, languages are listed in rank order based on prevalence, starting with the most-spoken language.

(../fields/402.html#VE)

Spanish (official), numerous indigenous dialects

Religions (../docs/notesanddefs.html#401): This entry is an ordered listing of religions by adherents starting with the largest group and sometimes includes the percent of total population. The core characteristics and beliefs of the world's major religions are described below. Baha'i - Founded by Mirza Husayn-Ali (known as Baha'u'llah) in Iran in 1852, Baha'i faith emphasizes monotheism and believes in one eternal transcendent God. Its guiding focus is to encourage the unity of all peoples on the earth so that justice and peace m . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#401)

(../fields/401.html#VE)

nominally Roman Catholic 96%, Protestant 2%, other 2%

Demographic profile (../docs/notesanddefs.html#340): This entry describes a country's key demographic features and trends and how they vary among regional, ethnic, and socioeconomic sub-populations. Some of the topics addressed are population age structure, fertility, health, mortality, poverty, education, and migration.

(../fields/340.html#VE)

Social investment in Venezuela during the CHAVEZ administration reduced poverty from nearly 50% in 1999 to about 27% in 2011, increased school enrollment, substantially decreased infant and child mortality, and improved access to potable water and sanitation through social investment. "Missions" dedicated to education, nutrition, healthcare, and sanitation were funded through petroleum revenues. The sustainability of this progress remains questionable, however, as the continuation of these social programs depends on the prosperity of Venezuela's oil industry. In the long-term, education and health care spending may increase economic growth and reduce income inequality, but rising costs and the staffing of new health care jobs with foreigners are slowing development.

While CHAVEZ was in power, more than one million predominantly middle- and upper-class Venezuelans are estimated to have emigrated. The brain drain is attributed to a repressive political system, lack of economic opportunities, steep inflation, a high crime rate, and corruption. Thousands of oil engineers emigrated to Canada, Colombia, and the United States following CHAVEZ's firing of over 20,000 employees of the state-owned petroleum company during a 2002-03 oil strike. Additionally, thousands of Venezuelans of European descent have taken up residence in their ancestral homelands. Nevertheless, Venezuela has attracted hundreds of thousands of immigrants from South America and southern Europe because of its lenient migration policy and the availability of education and health care. Venezuela also has been a fairly accommodating host to Colombian refugees, numbering about 170,000 as of year-end 2016. However, since 2014, falling oil prices have driven a major economic crisis that has pushed Venezuelans from all walks of life to migrate or to seek asylum abroad to escape severe shortages of food, water, and medicine; soaring inflation; unemployment; and violence. As of February 2019, an estimated 3.4 million Venezuelans were refugees or migrants worldwide, with 2.7 million in Latin America and the Caribbean (notably Colombia, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina, and Brazil, as well as the Dominican Republic, Aruba, and Curacao). Asylum applications increased significantly in the US and Brazil in 2016 and 2017. Several receiving countries are making efforts to increase immigration.

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restrictions and to deport illegal Venezuelan migrants - Ecuador and Peru in August 2018 began requiring valid passports for entry, which are difficult to obtain for Venezuelans. Nevertheless, Venezuelans continue to migrate to avoid economic collapse at home.

Age structure (../docs/notesanddefs.html#341): This entry provides the distribution of the population according to age. Information is included by sex and age group as follows: 0-14 years (children), 15-24 years (early working age), 25-54 years (prime working age), 55-64 years (mature working age), 65 years and over (elderly). The age structure of a population affects a nation's key socioeconomic issues. Countries with young populations (high percentage under age 15) need to invest more in schools, while countries with older population . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#341)

(../fields/341.html#VE)

0-14 years: 27.04% (male 4,392,306 /female 4,176,518)
15-24 years: 16.62% (male 2,709,250 /female 2,621,681)
25-54 years: 40.65% (male 6,393,114 /female 6,487,570)
55-64 years: 8.11% (male 1,233,524 /female 1,336,983)
65 years and over: 7.38% (male 1,056,864 /female 1,281,387) (2018 est.)
population pyramid:

Dependency ratios (../docs/notesanddefs.html#342): Dependency ratios are a measure of the age structure of a population. They relate the number of individuals that are likely to be economically "dependent" on the support of others. Dependency ratios contrast the ratio of youths (ages 0-14) and the elderly (ages 65+) to the number of those in the working-age group (ages 15-64). Changes in the dependency ratio provide an indication of potential social support requirements resulting from changes in population age structures. As fertility leve . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#342)

(../fields/342.html#VE)

total dependency ratio: 52.6 (2015 est.)
youth dependency ratio: 43 (2015 est.)
elderly dependency ratio: 9.6 (2015 est.)
potential support ratio: 10.5 (2015 est.)

Median age (../docs/notesanddefs.html#343): This entry is the age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups; that is, half the people are younger than this age and half are older. It is a single index that summarizes the age distribution of a population. Currently, the median age ranges from a low of about 15 in Niger and Uganda to 40 or more in several European countries and Japan. See the entry for "Age structure" for the importance of a young versus an older age structure and, by implication, a low versus a high . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#343)

(../fields/343.html#VE)

total: 28.7 years
male: 28 years
female: 29.4 years (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 132 (../fields/343rank.html#VE)

Population growth rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#344): The average annual percent change in the population, resulting from a surplus (or deficit) of births over deaths and the balance of migrants entering and leaving a country. The rate may be positive or negative. The growth rate is a factor in determining how great a burden would be imposed on a country by the changing needs of its people for infrastructure (e.g., schools, hospitals, housing, roads), resources (e.g., food, water, electricity), and jobs. Rapid population growth can be seen as . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#344)

(../fields/344.html#VE)

1.21% (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 90 (../fields/344rank.html#VE)

Birth rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#345): This entry gives the average annual number of births during a year per 1,000 persons in the population at midyear; also known as crude birth rate. The birth rate is usually the dominant factor in determining the rate of population growth. It depends on both the level of fertility and the age structure of the population.

(../fields/345.html#VE)

18.5 births/1,000 population (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 90 (../fields/345rank.html#VE)

Death rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#346): This entry gives the average annual number of deaths during a year per 1,000 population at midyear; also known as crude death rate. The death rate, while only a rough indicator of the mortality situation in a

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country, accurately indicates the current mortality impact on population growth. This indicator is significantly affected by age distribution, and most countries will eventually show a rise in the overall death rate, in spite of continued decline in mortality at all ages, as declining . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#346)

(../fields/346.html#VE)

5.3 deaths/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 187 (../fields/346rank.html#VE)

Net migration rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#347): This entry includes the figure for the difference between the number of persons entering and leaving a country during the year per 1,000 persons (based on midyear population). An excess of persons entering the country is referred to as net immigration (e.g., 3.56 migrants/1,000 population); an excess of persons leaving the country as net emigration (e.g., -9.26 migrants/1,000 population). The net migration rate indicates the contribution of migration to the overall level of population chan . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#347)

(../fields/347.html#VE)

-1.2 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 147 (../fields/347rank.html#VE)

Population distribution (../docs/notesanddefs.html#348): This entry provides a summary description of the population dispersion within a country. While it may suggest population density, it does not provide density figures.

(../fields/348.html#VE)

most of the population is concentrated in the northern and western highlands along an eastern spur at the northern end of the Andes, an area that includes the capital of Caracas

Urbanization (../docs/notesanddefs.html#349): This entry provides two measures of the degree of urbanization of a population. The first, urban population, describes the percentage of the total population living in urban areas, as defined by the country. The second, rate of urbanization, describes the projected average rate of change of the size of the urban population over the given period of time. Additionally, the World entry includes a list of the ten largest urban agglomerations. An urban agglomeration is defined as comprising th . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#349)

(../fields/349.html#VE)

urban population: 88.2% of total population (2018)

rate of urbanization: 1.26% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population (../docs/notesanddefs.html#350): This entry provides the population of the capital and up to six major cities defined as urban agglomerations with populations of at least 750,000 people. An urban agglomeration is defined as comprising the city or town proper and also the suburban fringe or thickly settled territory lying outside of, but adjacent to, the boundaries of the city. For smaller countries, lacking urban centers of 750,000 or more, only the population of the capital is presented.

(../fields/350.html#VE)

2.935 million CARACAS (capital), 2.179 million Maracaibo, 1.734 million Valencia, 1.178 million Maracay, 1.169 million Barquisimeto (2018)

Sex ratio (../docs/notesanddefs.html#351): This entry includes the number of males for each female in five age groups - at birth, under 15 years, 15-64 years, 65 years and over, and for the total population. Sex ratio at birth has recently emerged as an indicator of certain kinds of sex discrimination in some countries. For instance, high sex ratios at birth in some Asian countries are now attributed to sex-selective abortion and infanticide due to a strong preference for sons. This will affect future marriage patterns and fertilit . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#351)

(../fields/351.html#VE)

at birth: 1.06 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.05 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 1.03 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 0.99 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 0.92 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.82 male(s)/female

total population: 0.99 male(s)/female (2015 est.)

Maternal mortality rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#353): The maternal mortality rate (MMR) is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes). The MMR includes deaths during pregnancy, childbirth, or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, for a specified year.

(../fields/353.html#VE)

95 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 73 (../fields/353rank.html#VE)

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Infant mortality rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#354): This entry gives the number of deaths of infants under one year old in a given year per 1,000 live births in the same year. This rate is often used as an indicator of the level of health in a country.

(../fields/354.html#VE)

total: 11.9 deaths/1,000 live births
male: 12.6 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 11.2 deaths/1,000 live births (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 117 (../fields/354rank.html#VE)

Life expectancy at birth (../docs/notesanddefs.html#356): This entry contains the average number of years to be lived by a group of people born in the same year, if mortality at each age remains constant in the future. Life expectancy at birth is also a measure of overall quality of life in a country and summarizes the mortality at all ages. It can also be thought of as indicating the potential return on investment in human capital and is necessary for the calculation of various actuarial measures.

(../fields/356.html#VE)

total population: 76.2 years
male: 73.2 years
female: 79.3 years (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 93 (../fields/355rank.html#VE)

Total fertility rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#358): This entry gives a figure for the average number of children that would be born per woman if all women lived to the end of their childbearing years and bore children according to a given fertility rate at each age. The total fertility rate (TFR) is a more direct measure of the level of fertility than the crude birth rate, since it refers to births per woman. This indicator shows the potential for population change in the country. A rate of two children per woman is considered the replaceme . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#356)

(../fields/358.html#VE)

2.3 children born/woman (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 87 (../fields/356rank.html#VE)

Contraceptive prevalence rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#357): This field gives the percent of women of reproductive age (15-49) who are married or in union and are using, or whose sexual partner is using, a method of contraception according to the date of the most recent available data. The contraceptive prevalence rate is an indicator of health services, development, and women's empowerment. It is also useful in understanding, past, present, and future fertility trends, especially in developing countries.

(../fields/357.html#VE)

76% (2010)

Health expenditures (../docs/notesanddefs.html#358): This entry provides the total expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP. Health expenditures are broadly defined as activities performed either by institutions or individuals through the application of medical, paramedical, and/or nursing knowledge and technology, the primary purpose of which is to promote, restore, or maintain health.

(../fields/358.html#VE)

6.3% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world: 132 (../fields/356rank.html#VE)

Hospital bed density (../docs/notesanddefs.html#360): This entry provides the number of hospital beds per 1,000 people; it serves as a general measure of inpatient service availability. Hospital beds include inpatient beds available in public, private, general, and specialized hospitals and rehabilitation centers. In most cases, beds for both acute and chronic care are included. Because the level of inpatient services required for individual countries depends on several factors - such as demographic issues and the burden of disease - there is . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#360)

(../fields/360.html#VE)

0.8 beds/1,000 population (2014)

Drinking water source (../docs/notesanddefs.html#361): This entry provides information about access to improved or unimproved drinking water sources available to segments of the population of a country. Improved drinking water - use of any of the following sources: piped water into dwelling, yard, or plot; public tap or standpipe; tubewell or borehole; protected dug well; protected spring; or rainwater collection. Unimproved drinking water - use of any of the following sources: unprotected dug well; unprotected spring; cart with small tank or . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#361)

(../fields/361.html#VE)

improved: urban: 95% of population
rural: 77.9% of population
total: 93.1% of population
unimproved: urban: 5% of population

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rural: 22.1% of population
total: 6.9% of population (2015 est.)
Sanitation facility access (../docs/notesanddefs.html#398): This entry provides information about access to improved or unimproved sanitation facilities available to segments of the population of a country. Improved sanitation - use of any of the following facilities: flush or pour-flush to a piped sewer system, septic tank or pit latrine; ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine; pit latrine with slab; or a composting toilet. Unimproved sanitation - use of any of the following facilities: flush or pour-flush not piped to a sewer system, septic tank . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#398)
(../fields/398.html#VE)
improved:urban: 97.5% of population (2015 est.)
rural: 69.9% of population (2015 est.)
total: 94.4% of population (2015 est.)
unimproved:urban: 2.5% of population (2015 est.)
rural: 30.1% of population (2015 est.)
total: 5.6% of population (2015 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#383): This entry gives an estimate of the percentage of adults (aged 15-49) living with HIV/AIDS. The adult prevalence rate is calculated by dividing the estimated number of adults living with HIV/AIDS at yearend by the total adult population at yearend.
(../fields/383.html#VE)
0.6% (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 69 (../fields/383rank.html#VE)
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS (../docs/notesanddefs.html#384): This entry gives an estimate of all people (adults and children) alive at yearend with HIV infection, whether or not they have developed symptoms of AIDS.
(../fields/384.html#VE)
120,000 (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 40 (../fields/384rank.html#VE)
HIV/AIDS - deaths (../docs/notesanddefs.html#385): This entry gives an estimate of the number of adults and children who died of AIDS during a given calendar year.
(../fields/385.html#VE)
2,500 (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 47 (../fields/385rank.html#VE)
Major infectious diseases (../docs/notesanddefs.html#386): This entry lists major infectious diseases likely to be encountered in countries where the risk of such diseases is assessed to be very high as compared to the United States. These infectious diseases represent risks to US government personnel travelling to the specified country for a period of less than three years. The degree of risk is assessed by considering the foreign nature of these infectious diseases, their severity, and the probability of being affected by the diseases present. Th . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#386)
(../fields/386.html#VE)
degree of risk: high (2016)
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea and hepatitis A (2016)
vectorborne diseases: dengue fever and malaria (2016)

note: active local transmission of Zika virus by Aedes species mosquitoes has been identified in this country (as of August 2016); it poses an important risk (a large number of cases possible) among US citizens if bitten by an infective mosquito; other less common ways to get Zika are through sex, via blood transfusion, or during pregnancy, in which the pregnant woman passes Zika virus to her fetus

Obesity - adult prevalence rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#367): This entry gives the percent of a country's population considered to be obese. Obesity is defined as an adult having a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater to or equal to 30.0. BMI is calculated by taking a person's weight in kg and dividing it by the person's squared height in meters.
(../fields/367.html#VE)
25.6% (2016)
country comparison to the world: 60 (../fields/367rank.html#VE)
Children under the age of 5 years underweight (../docs/notesanddefs.html#368): This entry gives the percent of children under five considered to be underweight. Underweight means weight-for-age is approximately 2 kg below for standard at age one, 3 kg below standard for ages two and three, and 4 kg below standard for ages four and five. This statistic is an indicator of the nutritional status of a community. Children who suffer from growth retardation as a result of poor diets and/or recurrent infections tend to have a greater risk of suffering illness and death.

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(../fields/366.html#VE)
2.9% (2009)
country comparison to the world: 103 (../fields/366rank.html#VE)
Education expenditures (../docs/notesanddefs.html#369): This entry provides the public expenditure on education as a percent of GDP.
(../fields/369.html#VE)
6.9% of GDP (2009)
country comparison to the world: 18 (../fields/369rank.html#VE)
Literacy (../docs/notesanddefs.html#370): This entry includes a definition of literacy and Census Bureau percentages for the total population, males, and females. There are no universal definitions and standards of literacy. Unless otherwise specified, all rates are based on the most common definition - the ability to read and write at a specified age. Detailing the standards that individual countries use to assess the ability to read and write is beyond the scope of the Factbook. Information on literacy, while not a perfect measu . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#370)
(../fields/370.html#VE)
definition: age 15 and over can read and write (2016 est.)
total population: 97.1%
male: 97%
female: 97.2% (2016 est.)
School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education) (../docs/notesanddefs.html#371): School life expectancy (SLE) is the total number of years of schooling (primary to tertiary) that a child can expect to receive, assuming that the probability of his or her being enrolled in school at any particular future age is equal to the current enrollment ratio at that age. Caution must be maintained when utilizing this indicator in international comparisons. For example, a year or grade completed in one country is not necessarily the same in terms of educational content or qualit . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#371)
(../fields/371.html#VE)
total: 14 years
male: NA
female: NA (2009)
Unemployment, youth ages 15-24 (../docs/notesanddefs.html#373): This entry gives the percent of the total labor force ages 15-24 unemployed during a specified year.
(../fields/373.html#VE)
total: 14.6%
male: NA
female: NA (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 97 (../fields/373rank.html#VE)
Government :: Venezuela
Country name (../docs/notesanddefs.html#298): This entry includes all forms of the country's name approved by the US Board on Geographic Names (Italy is used as an example): conventional long form (Italian Republic), conventional short form (Italy), local long form (Repubblica Italiana), local short form (Italia), former (Kingdom of Italy), as well as the abbreviation. Also see the Terminology note.
(../fields/298.html#VE)
conventional long form: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
conventional short form: Venezuela
local long form: República Bolivariana de Venezuela
local short form: Venezuela
etymology: native stilt-houses built on Lake Maracaibo reminded early explorers Alonso de OJEDA and Amerigo VESPUCCI in 1499 of buildings in Venice and so they named the region "Venezuela," which in Italian means "Little Venice"
Government type (../docs/notesanddefs.html#299): This entry gives the basic form of government. Definitions of the major governmental terms are as follows. (Note that for some countries more than one definition applies.): Absolute monarchy - a form of government where the monarch rules unhindered, i.e., without any laws, constitution, or legally organized opposition. Anarchy - a condition of lawlessness or political disorder brought about by the absence of governmental authority. Authoritarian - a form of government in whic . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#299)
(../fields/299.html#VE)
federal presidential republic

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Capital (../doca/notesanddefs.html#301): This entry gives the name of the seat of government, its geographic coordinates, the time difference relative to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and the time observed in Washington, DC, and, if applicable, information on daylight saving time (DST). Where appropriate, a special note has been added to highlight those countries that have multiple time zones.

(../fields/301.html#VE)

name: Caracas

geographic coordinates: 10 29 N, 66 52 W

time difference: UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions (../doca/notesanddefs.html#302): This entry generally gives the numbers, designatory terms, and first-order administrative divisions as approved by the US Board on Geographic Names (BGN). Changes that have been reported but not yet acted on by the BGN are noted. Geographic names conform to spellings approved by the BGN with the exception of the omission of diacritical marks and special characters.

(../fields/302.html#VE)

23 states (estados, singular - estado), 1 capital district* (distrito capital), and 1 federal dependency** (dependencia federal); Amazonas, Anzoategui, Apure, Aragua, Barinas, Bolivar, Carabobo, Cojedes, Delta Amacuro, Dependencias Federales (Federal Dependencies)**, Distrito Capital (Capital District)*, Falcon, Guarico, Lara, Merida, Miranda, Monagas, Nueva Esparta, Portuguesa, Sucre, Tachira, Trujillo, Vargas, Yaracuy, Zulia

note: the federal dependency consists of 11 federally controlled island groups with a total of 72 individual islands

Independence (../doca/notesanddefs.html#305): For most countries, this entry gives the date that sovereignty was achieved and from which nation, empire, or trusteeship. For the other countries, the date given may not represent "independence" in the strict sense, but rather some significant nationhood event such as the traditional founding date or the date of unification, federation, confederation, establishment, fundamental change in the form of government, or state succession. For a number of countries, the establishment of statehood . . . more (../doca/notesanddefs.html#305)

(../fields/305.html#VE)

5 July 1811 (from Spain)

National holiday (../doca/notesanddefs.html#306): This entry gives the primary national day of celebration - usually Independence Day.

(../fields/306.html#VE)

Independence Day, 5 July (1811)

Constitution (../doca/notesanddefs.html#307): This entry provides information on a country's constitution and includes two subfields. The history subfield includes the dates of previous constitutions and the main steps and dates in formulating and implementing the latest constitution. For countries with 1-9 previous constitutions, the years are listed; for those with 4-9 previous, the entry is listed as "several previous," and for those with 10 or more, the entry is "many previous." The amendments subfield summarizes the process of am . . . more (../doca/notesanddefs.html#307)

(../fields/307.html#VE)

history: many previous; latest adopted 15 December 1999, effective 30 December 1999

amendments: proposed through agreement by at least 30% of the National Assembly membership, by the president of the republic in session with the cabinet of ministers, or by petition of at least 15% of registered voters; passage requires simple majority vote by the Assembly and simple majority approval in a referendum; amended 2009; note - in 2016, President MADURO issued a decree to hold an election to form a constituent assembly to change the constution; the election in July 2017 approved the formation of a 545-member constituent assembly and elected its delegates, empowering them to change the constitution and dismiss government institutions and officials (2018)

Legal system (../doca/notesanddefs.html#308): This entry provides the description of a country's legal system. A statement on judicial review of legislative acts is also included for a number of countries. The legal systems of nearly all countries are generally modeled upon elements of five main types: civil law (including French law, the Napoleonic Code, Roman law, Roman-Dutch law, and Spanish law); common law (including United State law); customary law; mixed or pluralistic law; and religious law (including Islamic law). An addition . . . more (../doca/notesanddefs.html#308)

(../fields/308.html#VE)

civil law system based on the Spanish civil code

International law organization participation (../doca/notesanddefs.html#309): This entry includes information on a country's acceptance of jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and of the International Criminal Court (ICCt); 59 countries have accepted ICJ jurisdiction with reservations and 11 have accepted ICJ jurisdiction without reservations; 122 countries have accepted ICCt jurisdiction. Appendix B: International Organizations and Groups explains the differing mandates of the ICJ and ICCt.

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(../fields/306.html#VE)
has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction
Citizenship (../docs/notesanddefs.html#310): This entry provides information related to the acquisition and exercise of citizenship; it includes four subfields: citizenship by birth describes the acquisition of citizenship based on place of birth, known as Jus soli, regardless of the citizenship of parents. citizenship by descent only describes the acquisition of citizenship based on the principle of Jus sanguinis, or by descent, where at least one parent is a citizen of the state and being born within the territorial limits of the s . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#310)

(../fields/310.html#VE)
citizenship by birth: yes
citizenship by descent only: yes
dual citizenship recognized: yes
residency requirement for naturalization: 10 years; reduced to five years in the case of applicants from Spain, Portugal, Italy, or a Latin American or Caribbean country
Suffrage (../docs/notesanddefs.html#311): This entry gives the age at enfranchisement and whether the right to vote is universal or restricted.

(../fields/311.html#VE)
18 years of age; universal
Executive branch (../docs/notesanddefs.html#312): This entry includes five subentries: chief of state; head of government; cabinet; elections/appointments; election results. Chief of state includes the name, title, and beginning date in office of the titular leader of the country who represents the state at official and ceremonial functions but may not be involved with the day-to-day activities of the government. Head of government includes the name, title of the top executive designated to manage the executive branch of the government, a . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#312)

(../fields/312.html#VE)
chief of state: Notification Statement: the United States recognizes Juan GUAIDO as the Interim President of Venezuela

President Nicolas MADURO Moros (since 19 April 2013); Executive Vice President Delcy RODRIGUEZ Gomez (since 14 June 2018); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government
head of government: President Nicolas MADURO Moros (since 19 April 2013); Executive Vice President Delcy RODRIGUEZ Gomez (since 14 June 2018)
cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president
elections/appointments: president directly elected by simple majority popular vote for a 6-year term (no term limits); election last held on 20 May 2018 (next election scheduled for 2024)
election results: Nicolas MADURO Moros reelected president; percent of vote - Nicolas MADURO Moros (PSUV) 68%, Henri FALCON (AP) 21%, Javier BERTUCCI 11%; note - the election was marked by serious shortcomings and electoral fraud; voter turnout was approximately 46% due largely to an opposition boycott of the election
Legislative branch (../docs/notesanddefs.html#313): This entry has three subfields. The description subfield provides the legislative structure (unicameral – single house; bicameral – an upper and a lower house); formal name(s); number of member seats; types of constituencies or voting districts (single seat, multi-seat, nationwide); electoral voting system(s); and member term of office. The elections subfield includes the dates of the last election and next election. The election results subfield lists percent of vote by party/coalition an . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#313)

(../fields/313.html#VE)
description: unicameral National Assembly or Asamblea Nacional (167 seats; 113 members directly elected in single- and multi-seat constituencies by simple majority vote, 51 directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by closed, party-list proportional representation vote, and 3 seats reserved for indigenous peoples of Venezuela; members serve 5-year terms)
elections: last held on 6 December 2015 (next to be held by 2020)
election results: percent of vote by party - MUD (opposition coalition) 56.2%, PSUV (pro-government) 40.9%, other 2.9%; seats by party - MUD 109, PSUV 55, indigenous peoples 3; composition - men 143, women 24, percent of women 14.4%
Judicial branch (../docs/notesanddefs.html#314): This entry includes three subfields. The highest court(s) subfield includes the name(s) of a country's highest level court(s), the number and titles of the judges, and the types of cases heard by the court, which commonly are based on civil, criminal, administrative, and constitutional law. A number of countries have separate constitutional courts. The judge selection and term of office subfield includes the organizations and associated officials responsible for nominating and appointing j . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#314)

(../fields/314.html#VE)
highest courts: Supreme Tribunal of Justice (consists of 32 judges organized into constitutional, political-administrative, electoral, civil appeals, criminal appeals, and social divisions)

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judge selection and term of office: judges proposed by the Committee of Judicial Postulation (an independent body of organizations dealing with legal issues and of the organs of citizen power) and appointed by the National Assembly; judges serve nonrenewable 12-year terms; note - in July 2017, the National Assembly named 33 judges to the court to replace a series of judges, it argued, had been illegally appointed in late 2015 by the outgoing, socialist-party-led Assembly; the Government of President MADURO and the Socialist Party-appointed judges refused to recognize these appointments, however, and many of the new judges have since been imprisoned or forced into exile

subordinate courts: Superior or Appeals Courts (Tribunales Superiores); District Tribunals (Tribunales de Distrito); Courts of First Instance (Tribunales de Primera Instancia); Parish Courts (Tribunales de Parroquia); Justices of the Peace (Justicia de Paz)

Network

Political parties and leaders (../docs/notesanddefs.html#315): This entry includes a listing of significant political parties, coalitions, and electoral lists as of each country's last legislative election, unless otherwise noted.

(../fields/315.html#VE)

A New Era or UNT [Manuel ROSALES]
Brave People's Alliance or ABP [Richard BLANCO]
Christian Democrats or COPEI [Roberto ENRIQUEZ]
Clear Accounts or CC [Enzo SCARENO]
Coalition of parties loyal to Hugo CHAVEZ -- Great Patriotic Pole or GPP [Nicolas MADURO]
Coalition of opposition parties -- The Democratic Unity Table or MUD [Jose Luis CARTAYA]
Come On Venezuela or VV [Maria MACHADO]
Communist Party of Venezuela or PCV [Oscar FIGUERA]
Democratic Action or AD [Henry RAMOS ALLUP]
Justice First or PJ [Julio BORGES]
Popular Will or VP [Leopoldo LOPEZ]
Progressive Ways or AP [Henri FALCON]
The Radical Cause or La Causa R [Andres VELAZQUEZ]
United Socialist Party of Venezuela or PSUV [Nicolas MADURO]
Venezuelan Progressive Movement or MPV [Simon CALZADILLA]
Venezuela Project or PV [Henrique Fernando SALAS FEO]

International organization participation (../docs/notesanddefs.html#317): This entry lists in alphabetical order by abbreviation those international organizations in which the subject country is a member or participates in some other way.

(../fields/317.html#VE)

Caricom (observer), CD, CDB, CELAC, FAO, G-15, G-24, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCt (signatory), ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAES, LAIA, LAS (observer), MIGA, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, OPCW, OPEC, PCA, Petrocaribe, UN, UNASUR, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, Union Latina, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US (../docs/notesanddefs.html#318): This entry includes the chief of mission, chancery address, telephone, FAX, consulate general locations, and consulate locations. The use of the annotated title Appointed Ambassador refers to a new ambassador who has presented his/her credentials to the secretary of state but not the US president. Such ambassadors fulfill all diplomatic functions except meeting with or appearing at functions attended by the president until such time as they formally present their credentials at a White Hou . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#318)

(../fields/318.html#VE)

chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Charge d'Affaires Carlos Lisselt M. HERNANDEZ Marquez (since May 2018)
chancery: 1099 30th Street NW, Washington, DC 20007
telephone: [1] (202) 342-2214
FAX: [1] (202) 342-6820
consulate(s) general: Boston, Chicago, Houston, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, San Juan (Puerto Rico)

Diplomatic representation from the US (../docs/notesanddefs.html#319): This entry includes the chief of mission, embassy address, mailing address, telephone number, FAX number, branch office locations, consulate general locations, and consulate locations.

(../fields/319.html#VE)

chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Deputy Chief of Mission James "Jimmy" STORY (since July 2018); note - due to strained relations between the US and Venezuelan Governments, neither country has shared ambassadors since 2010; on 22 May 2018, Venezuelan President Nicolas MADURO declared Charge d'Affaires Todd D. ROBINSON and his deputy persona non grata and ordered them expelled
embassy: Calle F con Calle Suapure, Urbanizacion Colinas de Valle Arriba, Caracas 1080
mailing address: P. O. Box 62291, Caracas 1060-A; APO AA 34037
telephone: [58] (212) 975-6411, 907-8400 (after hours)
FAX: [58] (212) 907-8108

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Flag description (../docs/notesanddefs.html#320): This entry provides a written flag description produced from actual flags or the best information available at the time the entry was written. The flags of independent states are used by their dependencies unless there is an officially recognized local flag. Some disputed and other areas do not have flags.

(../fields/320.html#VE)

three equal horizontal bands of yellow (top), blue, and red with the coat of arms on the hoist side of the yellow band and an arc of eight white five-pointed stars centered in the blue band; the flag retains the three equal horizontal bands and three main colors of the banner of Gran Colombia, the South American republic that broke up in 1830; yellow is interpreted as standing for the riches of the land, blue for the courage of its people, and red for the blood shed in attaining independence; the seven stars on the original flag represented the seven provinces in Venezuela that united in the war of independence; in 2006, then President Hugo CHAVEZ ordered an eighth star added to the star arc - a decision that sparked much controversy - to conform with the flag proclaimed by Simon Bolivar in 1827 and to represent the historic province of Guayana

National symbol(s) (../docs/notesanddefs.html#321): A national symbol is a faunal, floral, or other abstract representation - or some distinctive object - that over time has come to be closely identified with a country or entity. Not all countries have national symbols; a few countries have more than one.

(../fields/321.html#VE)

troupial (bird); national colors: yellow, blue, red

National anthem (../docs/notesanddefs.html#322): A generally patriotic musical composition - usually in the form of a song or hymn of praise - that evokes and eulogizes the history, traditions, or struggles of a nation or its people. National anthems can be officially recognized as a national song by a country's constitution or by an enacted law, or simply by tradition. Although most anthems contain lyrics, some do not.

(../fields/322.html#VE)

name: "Gloria al bravo pueblo" (Glory to the Brave People)

lyrics/music: Vicente SALIAS/Juan Jose LANDAETA

note: adopted 1881; lyrics written in 1810, the music some years later; both SALIAS and LANDAETA were executed in 1814 during Venezuela's struggle for independence

Economy :: Venezuela

Economy - overview (../docs/notesanddefs.html#207): This entry briefly describes the type of economy, including the degree of market orientation, the level of economic development, the most important natural resources, and the unique areas of specialization. It also characterizes major economic events and policy changes in the most recent 12 months and may include a statement about one or two key future macroeconomic trends.

(../fields/207.html#VE)

Venezuela remains highly dependent on oil revenues, which account for almost all export earnings and nearly half of the government's revenue, despite a continued decline in oil production in 2017. In the absence of official statistics, foreign experts estimate that GDP contracted 12% in 2017, inflation exceeded 2000%, people faced widespread shortages of consumer goods and medicine, and the central bank's international reserves dwindled. In late 2017, Venezuela also entered selective default on some of its sovereign and state oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., (PDVSA) bonds. Domestic production and industry continues to severely underperform and the Venezuelan Government continues to rely on imports to meet its basic food and consumer goods needs.

Falling oil prices since 2014 have aggravated Venezuela's economic crisis. Insufficient access to dollars, price controls, and rigid labor regulations have led some US and multinational firms to reduce or shut down their Venezuelan operations. Market uncertainty and PDVSA's poor cash flow have slowed investment in the petroleum sector, resulting in a decline in oil production.

Under President Nicolas MADURO, the Venezuelan Government's response to the economic crisis has been to increase state control over the economy and blame the private sector for shortages. MADURO has given authority for the production and distribution of basic goods to the military and to local socialist party member committees. The Venezuelan Government has maintained strict currency controls since 2003. The government has been unable to sustain its mechanisms for distributing dollars to the private sector, in part because it needed to withhold some foreign exchange reserves to make its foreign bond

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payments. As a result of price and currency controls, local industries have struggled to purchase production inputs necessary to maintain their operations or sell goods at a profit on the local market. Expansionary monetary policies and currency controls have created opportunities for arbitrage and corruption and fueled a rapid increase in black market activity.

GDP (purchasing power parity) (../docs/notesanddefs.html#208): This entry gives the gross domestic product (GDP) or value of all final goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. A nation's GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates is the sum value of all goods and services produced in the country valued at prices prevailing in the United States in the year noted. This is the measure most economists prefer when looking at per-capita welfare and when comparing living conditions or use of resources across countries. The measur . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#208)

(../fields/208.html#VE)

$381.6 billion (2017 est.)
$443.7 billion (2016 est.)
$531.1 billion (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 47 (../fields/208rank.html#VE)

GDP (official exchange rate) (../docs/notesanddefs.html#209): This entry gives the gross domestic product (GDP) or value of all final goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. A nation's GDP at official exchange rates (OER) is the home-currency-denominated annual GDP figure divided by the bilateral average US exchange rate with that country in that year. The measure is simple to compute and gives a precise measure of the value of output. Many economists prefer this measure when gauging the economic power an economy maintains via- . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#209)

(../fields/209.html#VE)

$210.1 billion (2017 est.)

GDP - real growth rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#210): This entry gives GDP growth on an annual basis adjusted for inflation and expressed as a percent. The growth rates are year-over-year, and not compounded.

(../fields/210.html#VE)

-14% (2017 est.)
-16.5% (2016 est.)
-8.2% (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 222 (../fields/210rank.html#VE)

GDP - per capita (PPP) (../docs/notesanddefs.html#211): This entry shows GDP on a purchasing power parity basis divided by population as of 1 July for the same year.

(../fields/211.html#VE)

$12,600 (2017 est.)
$14,400 (2016 est.)
$17,300 (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 128 (../fields/211rank.html#VE)

Gross national saving (../docs/notesanddefs.html#212): Gross national saving is derived by deducting final consumption expenditure (household plus government) from Gross national disposable income, and consists of personal saving, plus business saving (the sum of the capital consumption allowance and retained business profits), plus government saving (the excess of tax revenues over expenditures), but excludes foreign saving (the excess of imports of goods and services over exports). The figures are presented as a percent of GDP. A negative . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#212)

(../fields/212.html#VE)

-12.1% of GDP (2017 est.)
6.6% of GDP (2016 est.)
31.8% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 160 (../fields/212rank.html#VE)

GDP - composition, by end use (../docs/notesanddefs.html#213): This entry shows who does the spending in an economy: consumers, businesses, government, and foreigners. The distribution gives the percentage contribution to total GDP of household consumption, government consumption, investment in fixed capital, investment in inventories, exports of goods and services, and imports of goods and services, and will total 100 percent of GDP if the data are complete. Household consumption consists of expenditures by resident households, and by nonprofit insti . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#213)

(../fields/213.html#VE)

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household consumption: 66.5% (2017 est.)
government consumption: 18.6% (2017 est.)
investment in fixed capital: 13.9% (2017 est.)
investment in inventories: 1.7% (2017 est.)
exports of goods and services: 7% (2017 est.)
imports of goods and services: -10.7% (2017 est.)
GDP - composition, by sector of origin (../doca/notesanddefs.html#214): This entry shows where production takes place in an economy. The distribution gives the percentage contribution of agriculture, industry, and services to total GDP, and will total 100 percent of GDP if the data are complete. Agriculture includes farming, fishing, and forestry. Industry includes mining, manufacturing, energy production, and construction. Services cover government activities, communications, transportation, finance, and all other private economic activities that do not prod . . . more (../doca/notesanddefs.html#214)
(../fields/214.html#VE)
agriculture: 4.7% (2017 est.)
industry: 40.4% (2017 est.)
services: 54.9% (2017 est.)
Agriculture - products (../doca/notesanddefs.html#215): This entry is an ordered listing of major crops and products starting with the most important.
(../fields/215.html#VE)
corn, sorghum, sugarcane, rice, bananas, vegetables, coffee; beef, pork, milk, eggs; fish
Industries (../doca/notesanddefs.html#216): This entry provides a rank ordering of industries starting with the largest by value of annual output.
(../fields/216.html#VE)
agricultural products, livestock, raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, iron and steel products, crude oil and petroleum products
Industrial production growth rate (../doca/notesanddefs.html#217): This entry gives the annual percentage increase in industrial production (includes manufacturing, mining, and construction).
(../fields/217.html#VE)
-2% (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 183 (../fields/217rank.html#VE)
Labor force (../doca/notesanddefs.html#218): This entry contains the total labor force figure.
(../fields/218.html#VE)
14.21 million (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 40 (../fields/218rank.html#VE)
Labor force - by occupation (../doca/notesanddefs.html#219): This entry lists the percentage distribution of the labor force by sector of occupation. Agriculture includes farming, fishing, and forestry. Industry includes mining, manufacturing, energy production, and construction. Services cover government activities, communications, transportation, finance, and all other economic activities that do not produce material goods. The distribution will total less than 100 percent if the data are incomplete and may range from 99-101 percent due to rounding. more (../doca/notesanddefs.html#219)
(../fields/219.html#VE)
agriculture: 7.3%
industry: 21.8%
services: 70.9% (4th quarter, 2011 est.)
Unemployment rate (../doca/notesanddefs.html#220): This entry contains the percent of the labor force that is without jobs. Substantial underemployment might be noted.
(../fields/220.html#VE)
27.1% (2017 est.)
20.6% (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 199 (../fields/220rank.html#VE)
Population below poverty line (../doca/notesanddefs.html#221): National estimates of the percentage of the population falling below the poverty line are based on surveys of sub-groups, with the results weighted by the number of people in each group. Definitions of poverty vary considerably among nations. For example, rich nations generally employ more generous standards of poverty than poor nations.
(../fields/221.html#VE)
19.7% (2015 est.)

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Household income or consumption by percentage share (../docs/notesanddefs.html#222): Data on household income or consumption come from household surveys, the results adjusted for household size. Nations use different standards and procedures in collecting and adjusting the data. Surveys based on income will normally show a more unequal distribution than surveys based on consumption. The quality of surveys is improving with time, yet caution is still necessary in making inter-country comparisons.

(../fields/222.html#VE)

lowest 10%: 1.7%

highest 10%: 32.7% (2006)

Distribution of family income - Gini index (../docs/notesanddefs.html#223): This index measures the degree of inequality in the distribution of family income in a country. The index is calculated from the Lorenz curve, in which cumulative family income is plotted against the number of families arranged from the poorest to the richest. The index is the ratio of (a) the area between a country's Lorenz curve and the 45 degree helping line to (b) the entire triangular area under the 45 degree line. The more nearly equal a country's income distribution, the closer its . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#223)

(../fields/223.html#VE)

39 (2011)

49.5 (1998)

country comparison to the world: 74 (../fields/223rank.html#VE)

Budget (../docs/notesanddefs.html#224): This entry includes revenues, expenditures, and capital expenditures. These figures are calculated on an exchange rate basis, i.e., not in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.

(../fields/224.html#VE)

revenues: 92.6 billion (2017 est.)

expenditures: 189.7 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues (../docs/notesanddefs.html#225): This entry records total taxes and other revenues received by the national government during the time period indicated, expressed as a percent of GDP. Taxes include personal and corporate income taxes, value added taxes, excise taxes, and tariffs. Other revenues include social contributions - such as payments for social security and hospital insurance - grants, and net revenues from public enterprises. Normalizing the data, by dividing total revenues by GDP, enables easy comparisons acr . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#225)

(../fields/225.html#VE)

44.2% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 25 (../fields/225rank.html#VE)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-) (../docs/notesanddefs.html#226): This entry records the difference between national government revenues and expenditures, expressed as a percent of GDP. A positive (+) number indicates that revenues exceeded expenditures (a budget surplus), while a negative (-) number indicates the reverse (a budget deficit). Normalizing the data, by dividing the budget balance by GDP, enables easy comparisons across countries and indicates whether a national government saves or borrows money. Countries with high budget deficits (relat . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#226)

(../fields/226.html#VE)

-48.1% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 220 (../fields/226rank.html#VE)

Public debt (../docs/notesanddefs.html#227): This entry records the cumulative total of all government borrowings less repayments that are denominated in a country's home currency. Public debt should not be confused with external debt, which reflects the foreign currency liabilities of both the private and public sector and must be financed out of foreign exchange earnings.

(../fields/227.html#VE)

38.9% of GDP (2017 est.)

31.3% of GDP (2016 est.)

note: data cover central government debt, as well as the debt of state-owned oil company PDVSA; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include some debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intragovernmental debt; intragovernmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; some debt instruments for the social funds are sold at public auctions

country comparison to the world: 135 (../fields/227rank.html#VE)

Fiscal year (../docs/notesanddefs.html#228): This entry identifies the beginning and ending months for a country's accounting period of 12 months, which often is the calendar year but which may begin in any month. All yearly references are for the calendar year (CY) unless indicated as a noncalendar fiscal year (FY).

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(../fields/226.html#VE)
calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices) (../docs/notesanddefs.html#229): This entry furnishes the annual percent change in consumer prices compared with the previous year's consumer prices.
(../fields/229.html#VE)
1,087.5% (2017 est.)
254.4% (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 226 (../fields/229rank.html#VE)
Central bank discount rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#230): This entry provides the annualized interest rate a country's central bank charges commercial, depository banks for loans to meet temporary shortages of funds.
(../fields/230.html#VE)
29.5% (2016)

country comparison to the world: 1 (../fields/230rank.html#VE)
Commercial bank prime lending rate (../docs/notesanddefs.html#231): This entry provides a simple average of annualized interest rates commercial banks charge on new loans, denominated in the national currency, to their most credit-worthy customers.
(../fields/231.html#VE)
21.1% (31 December 2017 est.)
20.76% (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 12 (../fields/231rank.html#VE)
Stock of narrow money (../docs/notesanddefs.html#234): This entry, also known as "M1," comprises the total quantity of currency in circulation (notes and coins) plus demand deposits denominated in the national currency held by nonbank financial institutions, state and local governments, nonfinancial public enterprises, and the private sector of the economy, measured at a specific point in time. National currency units have been converted to US dollars at the closing exchange rate for the date of the information. Because of exchange rate moveme . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#234)
(../fields/234.html#VE)
$149.8 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$183.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 29 (../fields/234rank.html#VE)
Stock of broad money (../docs/notesanddefs.html#235): This entry covers all of "Narrow money," plus the total quantity of time and savings deposits, credit union deposits, institutional money market funds, short-term repurchase agreements between the central bank and commercial deposit banks, and other large liquid assets held by nonbank financial institutions, state and local governments, nonfinancial public enterprises, and the private sector of the economy. National currency units have been converted to US dollars at the closing exchange r . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#235)
(../fields/235.html#VE)
$149.8 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$183.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 29 (../fields/235rank.html#VE)
Stock of domestic credit (../docs/notesanddefs.html#236): This entry is the total quantity of credit, denominated in the domestic currency, provided by financial institutions to the central bank, state and local governments, public non-financial corporations, and the private sector. The national currency units have been converted to US dollars at the closing exchange rate on the date of the information.
(../fields/236.html#VE)
$66.97 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$148.5 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 60 (../fields/236rank.html#VE)
Market value of publicly traded shares (../docs/notesanddefs.html#237): This entry gives the value of shares issued by publicly traded companies at a price determined in the national stock markets on the final day of the period indicated. It is simply the latest price per share multiplied by the total number of outstanding shares, cumulated over all companies listed on the particular exchange.
(../fields/237.html#VE)
$25.3 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
$5.143 billion (31 December 2011 est.)
$3.991 billion (31 December 2011 est.)

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country comparison to the world: 60 (../fields/237rank.html#VE)
Current account balance (../docs/notesanddefs.html#238): This entry records a country's net trade in goods and services, plus net earnings from rents, interest, profits, and dividends, and net transfer payments (such as pension funds and worker remittances) to and from the rest of the world during the period specified. These figures are calculated on an exchange rate basis, i.e., not in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.
(../fields/238.html#VE)
$4.277 billion (2017 est.)
-$3.87 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 32 (../fields/238rank.html#VE)
Exports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#239): This entry provides the total US dollar amount of merchandise exports on an f.o.b. (free on board) basis. These figures are calculated on an exchange rate basis, i.e., not in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.
(../fields/239.html#VE)
$32.06 billion (2017 est.)
$27.2 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 63 (../fields/239rank.html#VE)
Exports - partners (../docs/notesanddefs.html#241): This entry provides a rank ordering of trading partners starting with the most important; it sometimes includes the percent of total dollar value.
(../fields/241.html#VE)
US 34.6%, India 17.2%, China 16%, Netherlands Antilles 8.2%, Singapore 6.3%, Cuba 4.2% (2017)
Exports - commodities (../docs/notesanddefs.html#240): This entry provides a listing of the highest-valued exported products; it sometimes includes the percent of total dollar value.
(../fields/240.html#VE)
petroleum and petroleum products, bauxite and aluminum, minerals, chemicals, agricultural products
Imports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#242): This entry provides the total US dollar amount of merchandise imports on a c.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) or f.o.b. (free on board) basis. These figures are calculated on an exchange rate basis, i.e., not in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.
(../fields/242.html#VE)
$11 billion (2017 est.)
$16.34 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 100 (../fields/242rank.html#VE)
Imports - commodities (../docs/notesanddefs.html#243): This entry provides a listing of the highest-valued imported products; it sometimes includes the percent of total dollar value.
(../fields/243.html#VE)
agricultural products, livestock, raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials, medical equipment, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, iron and steel products
Imports - partners (../docs/notesanddefs.html#403): This entry provides a rank ordering of trading partners starting with the most important; it sometimes includes the percent of total dollar value.
(../fields/403.html#VE)
US 24.6%, China 14.2%, Mexico 9.6% (2017)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold (../docs/notesanddefs.html#245): This entry gives the dollar value for the stock of all financial assets that are available to the central monetary authority for use in meeting a country's balance of payments needs as of the end-date of the period specified. This category includes not only foreign currency and gold, but also a country's holdings of Special Drawing Rights in the International Monetary Fund, and its reserve position in the Fund.
(../fields/245.html#VE)
$9.661 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$11 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 75 (../fields/245rank.html#VE)
Debt - external (../docs/notesanddefs.html#246): This entry gives the total public and private debt owed to nonresidents repayable in internationally accepted currencies, goods, or services. These figures are calculated on an exchange rate basis, i.e., not in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.
(../fields/246.html#VE)
$100.3 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$109.8 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

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country comparison to the world: 47 (../fields/246rank.html#VE)
Stock of direct foreign investment - at home (../docs/notesanddefs.html#247): This entry gives the cumulative US dollar value of all investments in the home country made directly by residents - primarily companies - of other countries as of the end of the time period indicated. Direct investment excludes investment through purchase of shares.
(../fields/247.html#VE)
$32.74 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$33.78 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 70 (../fields/247rank.html#VE)
Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad (../docs/notesanddefs.html#248): This entry gives the cumulative US dollar value of all investments in foreign countries made directly by residents - primarily companies - of the home country, as of the end of the time period indicated. Direct investment excludes investment through purchase of shares.
(../fields/248.html#VE)
$35.15 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
$31.12 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 47 (../fields/248rank.html#VE)
Exchange rates (../docs/notesanddefs.html#249): This entry provides the average annual price of a country's monetary unit for the time period specified, expressed in units of local currency per US dollar, as determined by international market forces or by official fiat. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 4217 alphabetic currency code for the national medium of exchange is presented in parenthesis. Closing daily exchange rates are not presented in The World Factbook, but are used to convert stock values - e.g., the . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#249)
(../fields/249.html#VE)
bolivars (VEB) per US dollar -
3,345 (2017 est.)
673.76 (2018 est.)
48.07 (2015 est.)
13.72 (2014 est.)
6.284 (2013 est.)
Energy :: Venezuela
Electricity access (../docs/notesanddefs.html#251): This entry provides information on access to electricity. Electrification data -- collected from industry reports, national surveys, and international sources -- consists of four subfields. Population without electricity provides an estimate of the number of citizens that do not have access to electricity. Electrification -- total population is the percent of a country's total population with access to electricity. electrification -- urban areas is the percent of a country's urban population w . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#251)
(../fields/251.html#VE)
population without electricity: 100,000 (2013)
electrification - total population: 99.7% (2013)
electrification - urban areas: 99.8% (2013)
electrification - rural areas: 99.6% (2013)
Electricity - production (../docs/notesanddefs.html#252): This entry is the annual electricity generated expressed in kilowatt-hours. The discrepancy between the amount of electricity generated and/or imported and the amount consumed and/or exported is accounted for as loss in transmission and distribution.
(../fields/252.html#VE)
109.3 billion kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 34 (../fields/252rank.html#VE)
Electricity - consumption (../docs/notesanddefs.html#253): This entry consists of total electricity generated annually plus imports and minus exports, expressed in kilowatt-hours. The discrepancy between the amount of electricity generated and/or imported and the amount consumed and/or exported is accounted for as loss in transmission and distribution.
(../fields/253.html#VE)
71.86 billion kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 39 (../fields/253rank.html#VE)
Electricity - exports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#254): This entry is the total exported electricity in kilowatt-hours.
(../fields/254.html#VE)
0 kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 216 (../fields/254rank.html#VE)

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Electricity - imports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#255): This entry is the total imported electricity in kilowatt-hours.

(../fields/255.html#VE)

0 kWh (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 216 (../fields/255rank.html#VE)

Electricity - installed generating capacity (../docs/notesanddefs.html#256): This entry is the total capacity of currently installed generators, expressed in kilowatts (kW), to produce electricity. A 10-kilowatt (kW) generator will produce 10 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity, if it runs continuously for one hour.

(../fields/256.html#VE)

31 million kW (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 32 (../fields/256rank.html#VE)

Electricity - from fossil fuels (../docs/notesanddefs.html#257): This entry measures the capacity of plants that generate electricity by burning fossil fuels (such as coal, petroleum products, and natural gas), expressed as a share of the country's total generating capacity.

(../fields/257.html#VE)

51% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 150 (../fields/257rank.html#VE)

Electricity - from nuclear fuels (../docs/notesanddefs.html#258): This entry measures the capacity of plants that generate electricity through radioactive decay of nuclear fuel, expressed as a share of the country's total generating capacity.

(../fields/258.html#VE)

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 208 (../fields/258rank.html#VE)

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants (../docs/notesanddefs.html#259): This entry measures the capacity of plants that generate electricity by water-driven turbines, expressed as a share of the country's total generating capacity.

(../fields/259.html#VE)

49% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 43 (../fields/259rank.html#VE)

Electricity - from other renewable sources (../docs/notesanddefs.html#260): This entry measures the capacity of plants that generate electricity by using renewable energy sources other than hydroelectric (including, for example, wind, waves, solar, and geothermal), expressed as a share of the country's total generating capacity.

(../fields/260.html#VE)

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 213 (../fields/260rank.html#VE)

Crude oil - production (../docs/notesanddefs.html#261): This entry is the total amount of crude oil produced, in barrels per day (bbl/day).

(../fields/261.html#VE)

2.007 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 11 (../fields/261rank.html#VE)

Crude oil - exports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#262): This entry is the total amount of crude oil exported, in barrels per day (bbl/day).

(../fields/262.html#VE)

1.656 million bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 8 (../fields/262rank.html#VE)

Crude oil - imports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#263): This entry is the total amount of crude oil imported, in barrels per day (bbl/day).

(../fields/263.html#VE)

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 212 (../fields/263rank.html#VE)

Crude oil - proved reserves (../docs/notesanddefs.html#264): This entry is the stock of proved reserves of crude oil, in barrels (bbl). Proved reserves are those quantities of petroleum which, by analysis of geological and engineering data, can be estimated with a high degree of confidence to be commercially recoverable from a given date forward, from known reservoirs and under current economic conditions.

(../fields/264.html#VE)

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302.3 billion bbl (1 January 2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 1 (../fields/284rank.html#VE)
Refined petroleum products - production (../docs/notesanddefs.html#265): This entry is the country's total output of refined petroleum products, in barrels per day (bbl/day). The discrepancy between the amount of refined petroleum products produced and/or imported and the amount consumed and/or exported is due to the omission of stock changes, refinery gains, and other complicating factors.
(../fields/265.html#VE)
926,300 bbl/day (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20 (../fields/265rank.html#VE)
Refined petroleum products - consumption (../docs/notesanddefs.html#266): This entry is the country's total consumption of refined petroleum products, in barrels per day (bbl/day). The discrepancy between the amount of refined petroleum products produced and/or imported and the amount consumed and/or exported is due to the omission of stock changes, refinery gains, and other complicating factors.
(../fields/266.html#VE)
668,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 29 (../fields/266rank.html#VE)
Refined petroleum products - exports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#267): This entry is the country's total exports of refined petroleum products, in barrels per day (bbl/day).
(../fields/267.html#VE)
325,900 bbl/day (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 27 (../fields/267rank.html#VE)
Refined petroleum products - imports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#268): This entry is the country's total imports of refined petroleum products, in barrels per day (bbl/day).
(../fields/268.html#VE)
20,640 bbl/day (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 117 (../fields/268rank.html#VE)
Natural gas - production (../docs/notesanddefs.html#269): This entry is the total natural gas produced in cubic meters (cu m). The discrepancy between the amount of natural gas produced and/or imported and the amount consumed and/or exported is due to the omission of stock changes and other complicating factors.
(../fields/269.html#VE)
27.07 billion cu m (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 28 (../fields/269rank.html#VE)
Natural gas - consumption (../docs/notesanddefs.html#270): This entry is the total natural gas consumed in cubic meters (cu m). The discrepancy between the amount of natural gas produced and/or imported and the amount consumed and/or exported is due to the omission of stock changes and other complicating factors.
(../fields/270.html#VE)
24.21 billion cu m (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 33 (../fields/270rank.html#VE)
Natural gas - exports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#271): This entry is the total natural gas exported in cubic meters (cu m).
(../fields/271.html#VE)
0 cu m (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 209 (../fields/271rank.html#VE)
Natural gas - imports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#272): This entry is the total natural gas imported in cubic meters (cu m).
(../fields/272.html#VE)
0 cu m (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 209 (../fields/272rank.html#VE)
Natural gas - proved reserves (../docs/notesanddefs.html#273): This entry is the stock of proved reserves of natural gas in cubic meters (cu m). Proved reserves are those quantities of natural gas, which, by analysis of geological and engineering data, can be estimated with a high degree of confidence to be commercially recoverable from a given date forward, from known reservoirs and under current economic conditions.
(../fields/273.html#VE)
5.739 trillion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 7 (../fields/273rank.html#VE)

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Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy (../docs/notesanddefs.html#274): This entry is the total amount of carbon dioxide, measured in metric tons, released by burning fossil fuels in the process of producing and consuming energy.

(../fields/274.html#VE)

129.9 million Mt (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 36 (../fields/274rank.html#VE)

Communications :: Venezuela

Telephones - fixed lines (../docs/notesanddefs.html#196): This entry gives the total number of fixed telephone lines in use, as well as the number of subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.

(../fields/196.html#VE)

total subscriptions: 5,828,714 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 19 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 27 (../fields/196rank.html#VE)

Telephones - mobile cellular (../docs/notesanddefs.html#197): This entry gives the total number of mobile cellular telephone subscribers, as well as the number of subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. Note that because of the ubiquity of mobile phone use in developed countries, the number of subscriptions per 100 inhabitants can exceed 100.

(../fields/197.html#VE)

total subscriptions: 24,493,687 (2017 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 78 (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 60 (../fields/197rank.html#VE)

Telephone system (../docs/notesanddefs.html#198): This entry includes a brief general assessment of the system with details on the domestic and international components. The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout the entry: Arabsat - Arab Satellite Communications Organization (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia), Autodin - Automatic Digital Network (US Department of Defense). CB - citizen's band mobile radio communications. Cellular telephone system - the telephones in this system are radio transceivers, with each instrument having its o . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#198)

(../fields/198.html#VE)

general assessment: modern and expanding; by late 2018 teledensity has fallen due to political upheaval in the country with people holding on to mobile service, but cancelling fixed-line telecom services; poor quality of service in many areas of the country due to financial concerns of customers, decrepit sate of fixed-line network and difficulty to pay for equipment from foreign vendors; popularity of social networks has given growth to mobile data traffic; LTE population coverage about 47%

domestic: two domestic satellite systems with three earth stations; recent substantial improvement in telephone service in rural areas; installation of a national inter-urban fiber-optic network capable of digital multimedia services; 3 major providers operate in the mobile market and compete with state-owned company; fixed-line 19/per 100 and mobile-cellular telephone subscribership about 78 per 100 persons

international: country code - 58; submarine cable systems provide connectivity to Cuba and the Caribbean, Central and South America, and US; satellite earth stations - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) and 1 PanAmSat; participating with Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia in the construction of an international fiber-optic network

Broadcast media (../docs/notesanddefs.html#199): This entry provides information on the approximate number of public and private TV and radio stations in a country, as well as basic information on the availability of satellite and cable TV services.

(../fields/199.html#VE)

government supervises a mixture of state-run and private broadcast media; 13 public service networks, 61 privately owned TV networks, a privately owned news channel with limited national coverage, and a government-backed Pan-American channel; state-run radio network includes roughly 65 news stations and another 30 stations targeted at specific audiences; state-sponsored community broadcasters include 235 radio stations and 44 TV stations; the number of private broadcast radio stations has been declining, but many still remain in operation (2014)

Internet country code (../docs/notesanddefs.html#202): This entry includes the two-letter codes maintained by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in the ISO 3166 Alpha-2 list and used by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) to establish country-coded top-level domains (ccTLDs).

(../fields/202.html#VE)

.ve

Internet users (../docs/notesanddefs.html#204): This entry gives the total number of individuals within a country who can access the Internet at home, via any device type (computer or mobile) and connection. The percent of population with Internet access (i.e., the penetration rate) helps gauge how widespread Internet use is within a country. Statistics vary from country to country and may include users who access the Internet at least several times a week to those who access it only once within a period of several months.

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(../fields/204.html#VE)
total: 18,547,381 (July 2018 est.)
percent of population: 60% (July 2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 34 (../fields/204rank.html#VE)
Broadband - fixed subscriptions (../docs/notesanddefs.html#206): This entry gives the total number of fixed-broadband subscriptions, as well as the number of subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. Fixed broadband is a physical wired connection to the Internet (e.g., coaxial cable, optical fiber) at speeds equal to or greater than 256 kilobits/second (256 kbit/s).
(../fields/206.html#VE)
total: 2,610,118 (2017 est.)
subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 8 (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 44 (../fields/206rank.html#VE)
Transportation :: Venezuela
National air transport system (../docs/notesanddefs.html#377): This entry includes four subfields describing the air transport system of a given country in terms of both structure and performance. The first subfield, number of registered air carriers, indicates the total number of air carriers registered with the country's national aviation authority and issued an air operator certificate as required by the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The second subfield, inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers, lists the total number . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#377)
(../fields/373.html#VE)
number of registered air carriers: 17 (2015)
inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 122 (2015)
annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 6,456,853 (2015)
annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 6,204,065 mt-km (2015)
Civil aircraft registration country code prefix (../docs/notesanddefs.html#378): This entry provides the one- or two-character alphanumeric code indicating the nationality of civil aircraft. Article 20 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), signed in 1944, requires that all aircraft engaged in international air navigation bear appropriate nationality marks. The aircraft registration number consists of two parts: a prefix consisting of a one- or two-character alphanumeric code indicating nationality and a registration suffix of one to fi . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#378)
(../fields/378.html#VE)
YV (2016)
Airports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#379): This entry gives the total number of airports or airfields recognizable from the air. The runway(s) may be paved (concrete or asphalt surfaces) or unpaved (grass, earth, sand, or gravel surfaces) and may include closed or abandoned installations. Airports or airfields that are no longer recognizable (overgrown, no facilities, etc.) are not included. Note that not all airports have accommodations for refueling, maintenance, or air traffic control.
(../fields/379.html#VE)
444 (2013)
country comparison to the world: 19 (../fields/379rank.html#VE)
Airports - with paved runways (../docs/notesanddefs.html#380): This entry gives the total number of airports with paved runways (concrete or asphalt surfaces) by length. For airports with more than one runway, only the longest runway is included according to the following five groups - (1) over 3,047 m (over 10,000 ft), (2) 2,438 to 3,047 m (8,000 to 10,000 ft), (3) 1,524 to 2,437 m (5,000 to 8,000 ft), (4) 914 to 1,523 m (3,000 to 5,000 ft), and (5) under 914 m (under 3,000 ft). Only airports with usable runways are included in this listing. Not all . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#380)
(../fields/380.html#VE)
total: 127 (2013)
over 3,047 m: 6 (2013)
2,438 to 3,047 m: 9 (2013)
1,524 to 2,437 m: 33 (2013)
914 to 1,523 m: 62 (2013)
under 914 m: 17 (2013)
Airports - with unpaved runways (../docs/notesanddefs.html#381): This entry gives the total number of airports with unpaved runways (grass, dirt, sand, or gravel surfaces) by length. For airports with more than one runway, only the longest runway is included according to the following five groups - (1) over 3,047 m (over 10,000 ft), (2) 2,438 to 3,047 m (8,000 to 10,000 ft), (3) 1,524 to 2,437 m (5,000 to 8,000 ft); (4) 914 to 1,523 m (3,000 to 5,000 ft), and (5) under 914 m (under 3,000 ft). Only airports with usable runways are included in this listin . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#381)
(../fields/381.html#VE)
total: 317 (2013)

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2,438 to 3,047 m: 3 (2013)
1,524 to 2,437 m: 57 (2013)
914 to 1,523 m: 127 (2013)
under 914 m: 130 (2013)
Heliports (../docs/notesanddefs.html#382): This entry gives the total number of heliports with hard-surface runways, helipads, or landing areas that support routine sustained helicopter operations exclusively and have support facilities including one or more of the following facilities: lighting, fuel, passenger handling, or maintenance. It includes former airports used exclusively for helicopter operations but excludes heliports limited to day operations and natural clearings that could support helicopter landings and takeoffs.
(../fields/382.html#VE)
3 (2013)
Pipelines (../docs/notesanddefs.html#383): This entry gives the lengths and types of pipelines for transporting products like natural gas, crude oil, or petroleum products.
(../fields/383.html#VE)
991 km extra heavy crude, 5941 km gas, 7588 km oil, 1778 km refined products (2013)
Railways (../docs/notesanddefs.html#384): This entry states the total route length of the railway network and of its component parts by gauge, which is the measure of the distance between the inner sides of the load-bearing rails. The four typical types of gauges are: broad, standard, narrow, and dual. Other gauges are listed under note. Some 60% of the world's railways use the standard gauge of 1.4 m (4.7 ft). Gauges vary by country and sometimes within countries. The choice of gauge during initial construction was mainly in resp . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#384)
(../fields/384.html#VE)
total: 447 km (2014)
standard gauge: 447 km 1.435-m gauge (41.4 km electrified) (2014)
country comparison to the world: 116 (../fields/384rank.html#VE)
Roadways (../docs/notesanddefs.html#385): This entry gives the total length of the road network and includes the length of the paved and unpaved portions.
(../fields/385.html#VE)
total: 96,189 km (2014)
country comparison to the world: 42 (../fields/385rank.html#VE)
Waterways (../docs/notesanddefs.html#386): This entry gives the total length of navigable rivers, canals, and other inland bodies of water.
(../fields/386.html#VE)
7,100 km (Orinoco River (400 km) and Lake de Maracaibo navigable by oceangoing vessels) (2011)
country comparison to the world: 20 (../fields/386rank.html#VE)
Merchant marine (../docs/notesanddefs.html#387): Merchant marine may be defined as all ships engaged in the carriage of goods; or all commercial vessels (as opposed to all noncmilitary ships), which excludes tugs, fishing vessels, offshore oil rigs, etc. This entry contains information in four subfields - total, ships by type, foreign-owned, and registered in other countries. Total includes the number of ships (1,000 GRT or over), total DWT for those ships, and total GRT for those ships. DWT or dead weight tonnage is the total weight of c . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#387)
(../fields/387.html#VE)
total: 269
by type: bulk carrier 4, container ship 1, general cargo 30, oil tanker 28, other 206 (2018)
country comparison to the world: 56 (../fields/387rank.html#VE)
Ports and terminals (../docs/notesanddefs.html#388): This entry lists major ports and terminals primarily on the basis of the amount of cargo tonnage shipped through the facilities on an annual basis. In some instances, the number of containers handled or ship visits were also considered. Most ports service multiple classes of vessels including bulk carriers (dry and liquid), break bulk cargoes (goods loaded individually in bags, boxes, crates, or drums; sometimes palletized), containers, roll-on/roll-off, and passenger ships. The listing is . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#388)
(../fields/388.html#VE)
major seaport(s): La Guaira, Maracaibo, Puerto Cabello, Punta Cardon
oil terminal(s): Jose terminal

Military and Security :: Venezuela

Military expenditures (../docs/notesanddefs.html#330): This entry gives spending on defense programs for the most recent year available as a percent of gross domestic product (GDP); the GDP is calculated on an exchange rate basis, i.e., not in terms of

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purchasing power parity (PPP). For countries with no military forces, this figure can include expenditures on public security and police.

(../fields/330.html#VE)

1% of GDP (2015)
1.16% of GDP (2014)
1.49% of GDP (2013)
1.3% of GDP (2012)
0.75% of GDP (2011)

country comparison to the world: 111 (../fields/330rank.html#VE)

Military branches (../docs/notesanddefs.html#331): This entry lists the service branches subordinate to defense ministries or the equivalent (typically ground, naval, air, and marine forces).

(../fields/331.html#VE)

Bolivarian National Armed Forces (Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana, FANB): Bolivarian Army (Ejercito Bolivariano, EB), Bolivarian Navy (Armada Bolivariana, AB; includes Naval Infantry, Coast Guard, Naval Aviation), Bolivarian Military Aviation (Aviacion Militar Bolivariana, AMB; includes Air National Guard), Bolivarian National Guard (Guardia Nacional Bolivaria, GNB), Bolivarian Militia (Milicia Bolivariana, NMB) (2016)

Military service age and obligation (../docs/notesanddefs.html#333): This entry gives the required ages for voluntary or conscript military service and the length of service obligation.

(../fields/333.html#VE)

all citizens of military service age (18-60 years old) are obligated to register for military service, though mandatory recruitment is forbidden; the minimum service obligation is 12 months (2016)

Maritime threats (../docs/notesanddefs.html#334): This entry describes the threat of piracy, as defined in Article 101, UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), or armed robbery against ships, as defined in Resolution A.1025 (26) adopted on 2 December 2009 at the 26th Assembly Session of the International Maritime Organization. The entry includes the number of ships on the high seas or in territorial waters that were boarded or attacked by pirates, and the number of crewmen abducted or killed, as compiled by the International Marit . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#334)

(../fields/334.html#VE)

the International Maritime Bureau continues to report the territorial and offshore waters in the Caribbean Sea as at risk for piracy and armed robbery against ships; numerous vessels, including commercial shipping and pleasure craft, have been attacked and hijacked both at anchor and while underway; crews have been robbed and stores or cargoes stolen; in 2016, there were five attacks reported and this increased to 12 attacks in 2017 making Venezuela the fourth most dangerous area in the World

Terrorism :: Venezuela

Terrorist groups - foreign based (../docs/notesanddefs.html#396): This entry provides information on the US State Department's designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations operating in countries other than where a particular group is headquartered. Details on each organization's aim(s) and area(s) of operation are provided.

(../fields/396.html#VE)

National Liberation Army (Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional, ELN):
aim(s): enhance its narcotics trafficking networks in Venezuela
area(s) of operation: maintains a narcotics trafficking presence, facilitating the transshipment of narcotics through the country (April 2018)

Trans-national Issues :: Venezuela

Disputes - international (../docs/notesanddefs.html#326): This entry includes a wide variety of situations that range from traditional bilateral boundary disputes to unilateral claims of one sort or another. Information regarding disputes over international terrestrial and maritime boundaries has been reviewed by the US Department of State. References to other situations involving borders or frontiers may also be included, such as resource disputes, geopolitical questions, or irredentist issues; however, inclusion does not necessarily constitute . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#326)

(../fields/326.html#VE)

claims all of the area west of the Essequibo River in Guyana, preventing any discussion of a maritime boundary; Guyana has expressed its intention to join Barbados in asserting claims before the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea that Trinidad and Tobago's maritime boundary with Venezuela extends into their waters; dispute with Colombia over maritime boundary and Venezuelan administered Los Monjes Islands near the Gulf of Venezuela; Colombian organized illegal narcotics and paramilitary activities penetrate Venezuela's shared border region; US, France, and the Netherlands recognize Venezuela's granting full

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effect to Aves Island, thereby claiming a Venezuelan Economic Exclusion Zone/continental shelf extending over a large portion of the eastern Caribbean Sea; Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines protest Venezuela's full effect claim

Refugees and internally displaced persons (../docs/notesanddefs.html#327): This entry includes those persons residing in a country as refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), or stateless persons. Each country's refugee entry includes only countries of origin that are the source of refugee populations of 5,000 or more. The definition of a refugee according to a UN Convention is "a person who is outside his/her country of nationality or habitual residence; has a well-founded fear of persecution because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#327)

(../fields/327.html#VE)

refugees (country of origin): 122,877 (Colombia) (2017)

Trafficking in persons (../docs/notesanddefs.html#328): Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded, or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. The International Labor Organization (ILO), the UN agency charged with addressing labor standards, employment, and social protection issues, estimated in 2011 that 20.9 million people worldwide were victims of forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, sexual servitude, and involuntary servitude. Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat, depri . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#328)

(../fields/328.html#VE)

current situation: Venezuela is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor; Venezuelan women and girls, sometimes lured from poor interior regions to urban and tourist areas, are trafficked for sexual exploitation within the country, as well as in the Caribbean; Venezuelan children are exploited, frequently by their families, in domestic servitude; people from South America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa are sex and labor trafficking victims in Venezuela; thousands of Cuban citizens, particularly doctors, who work in Venezuela on government social programs in exchange for the provision of resources to the Cuban Government experience conditions of forced labor

tier rating: Tier 3 – Venezuela does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so; in 2014, the government appeared to increase efforts to hold traffickers criminally accountable, but a lack of government data made anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts difficult to assess; publically available information indicated many cases pursued under anti-trafficking law involved illegal adoption rather than sex and labor trafficking; authorities identified a small number of trafficking victims, and victim referrals to limited government services were made on an ad hoc basis; because no specialized facilities are available for trafficking victims, women and child victims accessed centers for victims of domestic violence or at-risk youth, and services for men were virtually non-existent; NGOs provided some services to sex and labor trafficking victims; Venezuela has no permanent anti-trafficking interagency body, no national anti-trafficking plan, and still has not passed anti-trafficking legislation drafted in 2010 (2015)

illicit drugs (../docs/notesanddefs.html#329): This entry gives information on the five categories of illicit drugs - narcotics, stimulants, depressants (sedatives), hallucinogens, and cannabis. These categories include many drugs legally produced and prescribed by doctors as well as those illegally produced and sold outside of medical channels. Cannabis (Cannabis sativa) is the common hemp plant, which provides hallucinogens with some sedative properties, and includes marijuana (pot, Acapulco gold, grass, reefer), tetrahydroca . . . more (../docs/notesanddefs.html#329)

(../fields/329.html#VE)

small-scale illicit producer of opium and coca for the processing of opiates and coca derivatives; however, large quantities of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana transit the country from Colombia bound for US and Europe; significant narcotics-related money-laundering activity, especially along the border with Colombia and on Margarita Island; active eradication program primarily targeting opium; increasing signs of drug-related activities by Colombian insurgents on border

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